

# Lambda Letters Project

Lavender Library, Archives  
and Cultural Exchange  
Sacramento, CA

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## Bill Endorsement Letters Needed

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

As I have said in past newsletters, there are four blockbuster bills currently making their way through the state legislature. None of them has failed a single vote and all of them have been approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate for further legislative action. However, the possibility of a recall election for the governor poses at least a possible danger for these bills. We need your help in a new and different way to overcome that possible danger. First let's recap the bills:

- **AB 17:** Would require businesses that contract with the state to provide the same benefits to the domestic partners of their employees as they provide to the spouses of their employees. Author: The Hon. Christine Kehoe
- **AB 196:** Would prohibit employment and housing discrimination against transgender people. Author: The Hon. Mark Leno
- **AB 205:** Would grant to registered domestic partners most of the rights and duties now available to married couples in California. Author: The Hon. Jackie Goldberg

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## Who Are the Friends of Lambda Letters?

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

You've probably seen "The Friends of Lambda Letters" in some of the mailings from Lambda Letters and wondered what that group is and what purpose it serves.

The Friends of Lambda Letters ("the Friends") is a project of Sacramento Progressive Communities, Inc. SPC is an entity that has a 501(c)(3) tax status, which means that it can offer a charitable tax exemption to people who make contributions to it. SPC uses the funds it raises for charitable and educational purposes.

About a year ago SPC approached Lambda Letters and offered to establish the Friends as a conduit of donations to pay for any educational activities that Lambda Letters conducts. This would allow donors to contribute money to cover the cost of those educational activities and get a tax exemption for their contribution. Because Lambda Letters is a 501(c)(4) organization, it cannot offer tax exemptions for contributions made directly to Lambda Letters.

The SPC, with our agreement, did establish the Friends of Lambda Letters. Any contributions made payable to the Friends of Lambda Letters does not go

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### Lambda Letters Progress Report

#### Letters & Messages Collected

May, 2003	47,353 letters & e-mails
In all of 2003	113,578 letters & e-mails

#### Dollars Spent

May, 2003	\$3,955
In all of 2003	\$20,866

#### Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

# Lambda Letters Project

## Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy; and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in American society.

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We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists. The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly, except in December, by Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6529 Cowboy Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

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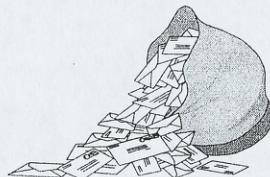
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If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

## Help Doctors Improve Multicultural Skills

By Marty Martinez, *People of Color Analyst*

In order to provide adequate healthcare effectively to communities of color, medical physicians need to understand the populations they deal with. Ideally, they should speak the language of those they serve.

Research shows that when physicians are not culturally competent, or when there are language barriers to care, the health of people of color suffers. There are more emergency room visits, more expensive care, a greater number of mistakes made, and less effective treatment of disease. Medical practitioners are continuously treating and caring for patients who speak different languages, eat different foods, have different cultural standards, and are prone to different illnesses. Knowing more about these differences will improve the quality of healthcare services provided by local medical practitioners. Many doctors and physician organizations understand the need to improve the competency of providers that serve communities of color.

AB 801 by Assemblymember Manny Diaz (D-San Jose) would establish a voluntary program to help physicians improve their competency when serving people of color. Because the program is voluntary and is virtually cost-free to the state, it will hopefully pass even in these tough economic times.

AB 801 establishes the Cultural and Linguistic Physician Competency Program (CLPCP), which will be operated in conjunction with the California Medical Association and monitored by the Division of Licensing of the Medical Board of California. The program will consist of educational classes designed to teach linguistic and cultural understanding of ethnic minority groups. Those classes will include the participation of Mexican physicians to increase understanding of the Latino and Latina communities.

Hopefully this program eventually leads to greater linguistic competency on the part of doctors, which improves access to care for people of color. These programs may eventually turn into standard requirements for physicians, which will further improve the health of our various communities.

Please sign the enclosed sample letter and send it to your local state senator. ####

## Support Clean Needle Exchange

By Boyce Hinman, *Chief Lobbyist*

Governor Davis has a poor record on legislation relating to clean needle-exchange programs, which are designed to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS by reducing the sharing of dirty needles among intravenous drug users. This protects not only the drug users but their non-using sexual partners.

In his first year in office the governor returned a clean needle-exchange bill (AB 518) to the legislature "at the request of the Assembly." Actually he persuaded them to ask to have it returned. That way he avoided having to either sign or veto the bill. The author of that bill was then Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni (D-Marin).

Last year the governor vetoed another bill (SB 1734), authored by Senator John Vasconcellos (D-San Jose), which would have made it easier for local governments to establish clean needle-exchange programs. Senator Vasconcellos has another clean needle-exchange bill this year, SB 774, which has been approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly for approval of that house.

Senator Vasconcellos' office has asked Lambda Letters members to write to the governor urging him to support the bill. Those letters might persuade him to sign the bill if it gets to him, but they may also improve the chance that the bill will be approved by the legislature in the first place. Clean needle-exchange bills are still somewhat controversial, and some legislators may be reluctant to vote for a controversial bill if they expect the governor to veto it anyway.

We must write to the governor asking him to support SB 774 and to make his support known to the legislators. Please sign the sample letter to the governor in support of SB 774.

####

Don't Know Who Represents You?  
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## Make Emergency Contraception Available

By Adrienne Lauby, Women's Analyst

I recently got yet another e-mail solicitation offering me the opportunity to order cheap and "marvelously effective" Viagra. While Viagra has become part of popular culture, the newest contraceptive, the "morning after" pill, continues an uphill climb to becoming easily available.

Feminists fought the religious right to bring this drug into the country and get it to women without prohibitive doctor's visits. Now many pharmacists are charging a consultation fee, which often makes emergency contraception very expensive—and less accessible to low-income, uninsured women. The motive for this "consultation fee" appears to be pure greed. Pharmacists attend a separate training program, use a special form to gather very personal health information from women, and offer a specialized medical consultation before dispensing the pill. All these protocols are unnecessary and add to the cost of the pill.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists—District IX, representing more than 4,300 California physicians, is the sponsor of SB 545 (Jackie Speier, D—San Mateo), which would remove barriers to accessing emergency contraception by doing the following:

- Eliminating the discriminatory, unwarranted pharmacist "consultation fee."
- Permitting pharmacists to charge a dispensing fee equal to the Medi-Cal dispensing fee for prescription drugs.
- Clarifying that the duty of a pharmacist to provide patient consultation for these medications is no greater than their duty to consult for all other prescription medications, which already exists in pharmacy regulations.
- Clarifying that the information a pharmacist may require of a woman seeking emergency contraception is limited to determining her eligibility.
- Clarifying that the duty of a pharmacist to keep patient records is no greater than that which is already required by existing pharmacy regulations.
- Eliminating unnecessary training requirements for pharmacists who provide emergency contraception

## Support Transgenders

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Governor Davis has a dubious record with regard to transgender rights. The legislature has approved two bills to make it easier for postoperative transsexuals to get court recognition of their new sex.

The first bill was AB 1851, introduced by Assemblymember John Longville (D—San Bernardino). It was vetoed by the governor in 2000. Longville introduced a new bill in 2001 with largely the same purpose, AB 194. The governor vetoed that bill too.

In 2001 Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg (D—Los Angeles) introduced AB 1649, whose purpose was to ban employment and housing discrimination against transgender people. This bill was approved by the Assembly and the Senate Judiciary Committee. However, the governor asked Goldberg to drop the bill, which she did in return for his promise to carry out the purpose of the bill through administrative action. Because he failed to do that, this year Assemblymember Mark Leno (D—San Francisco) has introduced AB 196, which would also ban employment and housing discrimination against transgender people in California. The bill has passed in the Assembly.

Lambda Letters members need to write to the governor to persuade him to sign the bill when it gets to him. Unfortunately, many people consider rights for transgender people to be a controversial issue. Legislators will be reluctant to vote for a controversial bill if they think the governor is likely to veto it anyway. We need to persuade the governor to let legislators know that he will sign this bill if it is sent to him. Please write to the governor, or sign the sample letter, in support of SB 774. ####

pursuant to protocol agreements with physicians.

- Requiring pharmacies which participate in the Medi-Cal program to make emergency contraception available.

The State of California has developed a fact sheet that gives all information needed by patients using this method of birth control. Emergency contraception drugs are extremely safe. Tell your Assemblymember that women have already waited too long for safe emergency contraception. Support SB 545. ####

# July Legislative Update

Generally, if a bill loses a vote in a committee or on the floor of either house of the state legislature, the bill is dead. However, the legislators in the committee or on the floor can grant reconsideration of the bill. That means it can be brought up for a vote again later.

Under the legislature's rules, every bill must be approved by its house of origin and sent to the other house no later than June 6. For example, a bill beginning with the letters "AB" must be approved by the Assembly no later than that date.

However, any bills still in their house of origin *which have not lost on any vote in that house, or which lost a vote but were granted reconsideration*, become two-year bills. That means they can be brought up again the following January—in 2004, in this case. If these bills are brought up in January, they must be approved by their house of origin no later than the end of January. If that does not happen they are truly dead.

You will see several bills in the following list that are called two-year bills.

There are some exceptions to the June 6 rule. Tax bills (such as AB 4 in our list) and urgency bills may be voted on in the house of origin after June 6. Urgency bills are ones that take effect as soon as they are signed by the governor. All non-urgency bills take effect no sooner than January 1 of the year after they are signed by the governor.

## HIV/AIDS Issues

### AB 4 (Wilma Chan, D—Oakland)

**Purpose:** To impose—for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2003—10 percent and 11 percent maximum rates for taxpayers with taxable incomes over certain amounts, and impose an 8.5 percent maximum rate based upon the taxpayer's alternative minimum taxable income.

**Merrisa L. Coleman**  
Attorney



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**Status:** Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.

**LLP Position:** Support. This will reduce the pressure to cut important health programs.

### AB 879 (Paul Koretz, D—West Hollywood)

**Purpose:** To require the Office of AIDS to convene a task force to develop recommendations for the use of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in the general population for the prevention of HIV infection.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 946 (Patty Berg, D—Santa Rosa)

**Purpose:** To authorize cities or counties to develop clean needle and syringe exchange projects that contain prescribed components. This bill would require a participating county or city to assess the project using certain criteria and submit a progress report that takes into consideration data from the assessment.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 1324 (Darrell Steinberg, D—Sacramento)

**Purpose:** To provide that if certain state or local firefighting, law enforcement, or patrol members sustain an injury that meets the definition of a blood-borne infectious disease, and a dependent contracts the blood-borne infectious disease from that person, the dependent may elect to receive worker's compensation for the duration of the disease for all medically necessary healthcare costs. If the dependent elects to receive the award, she or he may not sue the employer.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 1363 (Patty Berg, D—Santa Rosa)

**Purpose:** To authorize cities or counties to develop clean needle and syringe exchange projects that contain prescribed components. This bill would require a participating county or city to assess the project using certain criteria and submit a progress report that takes into consideration data from the assessment.

**Status:** This bill was dropped by the author. Its purpose was amended into AB 946.

**LLP Position:** Support.

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## Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

### AB 1676 (John Dutra, D-Fremont)

**Purpose:** To allow testing of blood from a pregnant woman for the presence of HIV. Existing law requires a physician and surgeon to obtain a blood specimen from a pregnant woman before or at the time of delivery. Under the bill, HIV testing would not be required if the pregnant woman has been previously determined to be chronically infected with HIV, as specified. The bill would require certain medical care providers to ensure that the woman is informed of, among other things, the purpose of testing and that the woman has a right to refuse testing.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 71 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** Among other things, to authorize school districts to provide comprehensive sexual health education, as defined, in grades K–12, and to require school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 7–12 receive HIV/AIDS prevention education.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Education Committee for a hearing on June 25.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 131 (Byron Sher, D-Redwood City)

**Purpose:** To change the punishments for the first and later charges of possession of a small amount of marijuana.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Public Safety Committee for a hearing on June 24.

**LLP Position:** Neutral. The bill seems to reduce the number of possession violations which would result in diversion to a drug treatment program.

### SB 151 (John Burton, D-San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To eliminate the extra paperwork required of doctors when prescribing a Schedule II controlled substance (mostly potent pain medications).

**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Committee on Public Safety. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support. The bill should reduce the barriers to providing adequate pain management to patients.

### SB 774 (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)

**Purpose:** To authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell hypodermic needles or syringes to a person without a prescription under specified conditions, and to authorize a person to possess up to 30 hypodermic needles or syringes if acquired through an authorized source. These things would facilitate authorized clean needle exchange programs around the state.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on June 24.

**LLP Position:** Support.

## *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex Issues*

### AB 17 (Christine Kehoe, D-San Diego)

**Purpose:** To prohibit a state agency from entering into a contract for the acquisition of goods or services with a vendor or contractor who does not offer benefits to domestic partner employees, as defined, that are equal to benefits offered to employees with spouses, except as otherwise specified.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 75 (Gloria Negrete McLeod, D-Montclair)

**Purpose:** To authorize agencies contracting with California's Public Employee Retirement System to provide the survivors of a deceased, retired local safety member an allowance equal to 40 percent of the specified portion of the deceased member's retirement allowance plus 75 percent of the remaining portion of the deceased member's allowance.

**Status:** Still is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support if domestic partners are added to the list of eligible survivors.

**Deborah A. Brooks**

Certified Public Accountant



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**AB 76** (Ellen Corbett, D–San Leandro)

**Purpose:** To make it unlawful for an employer to fail to take immediate and appropriate corrective action to prevent harassment of an employee by an applicant, or a person providing services or by any person, once the employer knows or should have known of this conduct. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to Senate Judiciary and Senate Labor and Employment Committees, Judiciary Committee first for a vote on June 24.

**AB 196** (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To ban discrimination against transgender people.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 205** (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To extend the rights and responsibilities of marriage to registered domestic partners, and to revise the process for registering as domestic partners.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Probably will be voted on in Senate Judiciary

Committee prior to July 11.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 266** (Gene Mullin, D–San Mateo)

**Purpose:** To authorize the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to elect to grant domestic partner benefits to the partners of county employees and retirees, through collective bargaining and based on actuarial cost estimates.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee. Sent to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 458** (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)

**Purpose:** To guarantee the rights of a foster child to have fair and equal access to all services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and not to be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or mental or physical disability. Also to require training for administrators, licensing personnel, licensed foster parents, and relative caretakers to

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## Legislative Update

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include training about this right.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on June 18.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 1082 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)

**Purpose:** The state government and many local governments are part of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). This system allows these governments to offer health benefits to the domestic partners of their employees and retirees if the employees or retirees and their partners meet the state's definition of domestic partnership. Some local governments prior to January 1, 2001, created definitions of domestic partners which differ from the state's definition. AB 1082 would allow these governments to offer health benefits to any persons meeting those local definition of a domestic partner of an employee or retiree of those governments.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee (PERS Committee) and the Senate Judiciary Committee. PERS Committee first for a vote on June 23.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 1250 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)

**Purpose:** To provide funding for training of teachers designed to improve prevention of intolerance and hatred in schools.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 25.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 85 (Tom Torlakson, D–Walnut Creek)

**Purpose:** To allow any county to offer the same death benefits, optional retirement allowances, or survivor's allowances to a registered domestic partner of a county employee or retiree that are currently offered to a spouse of a county employee or retiree. However, for the domestic partner to qualify for the benefits, an affidavit of domestic partnership must be on file with the county one year prior to the employee's retirement or death prior to retirement.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Public Employees and Retirement Committee for a vote on June 25.

**LLP Position:** Support.

## People of Color Issues

### AB 25 (Fabian Nunez, D–Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To require state agencies to accept as valid identification of a person a photo identification card issued by another nation, as defined, to its citizens or nationals, subject to specified exceptions.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 30 (Keith Richman, R–Granada Hills)

**Purpose:** To require the state to expand the Healthy Families Program to provide health insurance coverage to employed, childless adults who are uninsured for healthcare coverage and who meet certain household income requirements, subject to approval of a federal waiver and appropriation of state matching funds.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Insurance Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 54 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)

**Purpose:** To require the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to contract with an independent evaluator to conduct a study of the availability and effectiveness of cultural training for public school teachers and administrators. The bill would require the study to focus on 10 culturally diverse schools that reflect the diverse demography and geography of California and would prescribe criteria for selecting those schools.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Education Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 174 (Thomas Calderon, D–Montebello)

**Purpose:** To help mitigate the effect of increases in community college fees. Governor Davis has proposed more than doubling the fee per unit of credit for community colleges. This bill states that if community college fees are increased, only the first ten units will be payable at the new rates; any additional credits will be free.

**Status:** Still is in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support. People on limited income depend on low-cost community colleges to receive their

college education, which increases their chance of getting good-paying jobs.

#### AB 177 (Jenny Oropeza, D-Carson)

**Purpose:** To require that voters pamphlets include a statement setting forth various specified rights of voters during an election, including the right to get election materials in a language other than English. The secretary of state would be required to print posters in English and Spanish and other languages, setting forth the list of rights, and distribute the posters to county elections officials for display by precinct officials at their polling places.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Committee on Elections and Reapportionment. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

#### AB 203 (Sally Lieber, D-San Jose)

**Purpose:** To require the state to conduct an annual study of physician reimbursement rates in medical assistance programs in *the five states, other than California, that have the largest number of residents*, and to submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the study.

**Status:** Still is in Assembly Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support. The concept is to see if we should adjust the rates paid to doctors for caring for Medi-Cal patients.

#### AB 231 (Darrel Steinberg, D-Sacramento)

**Purpose:** To help people qualify for the CalWORKs and Food Stamp Programs which serve limited-income people in California. Because their assets are reviewed to see whether they qualify for the programs, this bill states that a car owned by someone should not be considered when determining whether that person has few-enough assets to qualify for the programs. Would also require each county welfare department, to the

maximum extent allowable under federal law, to provide transitional food stamp benefits to households terminating their participation in the CalWORKs program for a period of five months. Also would eliminate a fingerprint electronic ID system now used by the food stamp programs. Studies show that this system is ineffective in eliminating duplicate applications.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on June 18.

**LLP Position:** Support.

#### AB 292 (Leland Yee, D-San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To provide that a state or local governmental agency, or a public or private agency supported by state funding, shall not use any child, or permit any child to be used, as a translator or interpreter in any matter involving the business or function of that agency except as specified. Also to require each agency that receives state funding to have available for inspection an established procedure for translation services that provide competent translation services.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

#### AB 309 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

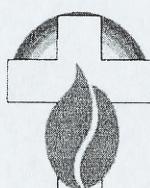
**Purpose:** Existing law requires a person in a trade or business who negotiates contracts primarily in Spanish to deliver a Spanish copy of the contract to the other party prior its execution. Failure to do so can void the contract. This bill extends these provisions to contracts negotiated in Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean. Only becomes operative if SB 146 is also passed.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing on June 24.

**LLP Position:** Support, but would prefer the bill to cover all languages.

#### AB 522 (Manny Diaz, D-San Jose)

**Purpose:** To require local governments to accept for purposes of personal identification an identification card issued by the Mexican Consulate Office, to the extent permitted by federal law, the same as a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles



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*Continued on page 10*

## Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

except when possession of a valid driver's license is required by law.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on June 17. Vote postponed by committee.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 570 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

**Purpose:** Existing law requires people engaged in a garment manufacturing business to register with the state labor commissioner and pay a registration fee. Part of the fee goes into a special fund to compensate garment workers who aren't paid their wages, expenses, or benefits by a garment manufacturer, jobber, contractor, or subcontractor. This bill would authorize the state to use *all* the special funds every year to compensate workers who have been harmed.

**Status:** Still is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 801 (Manny Diaz, D-San Jose)

**Purpose:** To create a voluntary program for physicians. It would develop voluntary classes to teach foreign languages to interested physicians, and teach physicians about cultural practices and beliefs that impact healthcare. The bill would reduce the barriers to healthcare faced by many minority Californians.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and referred to the Senate Business and Professions Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 858 (Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To generally prohibit public schools from using certain specified terms as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname.

**Status:** Failed in the Assembly.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 1278 (Jerome Horton, D-Inglewood)

**Purpose:** To require high schools to offer courses of study relating to the economics of higher education and instruction on completing forms relating to student financial aid.

**Status:** Still is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 1657 (Wilma Chan, D-Oakland)

**Purpose:** To prohibit the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or import into this state of any *prepackaged* gelatin-based (like Jell-O) alcoholic beverage unless it is sold, offered for sale, or intended to be sold in a business establishment (for consumption on the premises) that prohibits the presence of persons under 21 years of age on its premises.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Governmental Organization Committee for a hearing on June 10. Hearing cancelled by author.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AJR 3 (Jerome Horton, D-Inglewood)

**Purpose:** To urge Congress and the president of the United States to amend a provision of the 1998 amendments to the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 that denies or delays access to financial aid based upon convictions for drug-related offenses to exempt individuals who have been convicted of minor drug possession offenses and have successfully completed rehabilitation programs. The measure would provide that a new section should be included on the instruction page for the federal student financial aid application that explains and clarifies that issue.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AJR 30 (Carol Liu, D-Pasadena)

**Purpose:** To condemn the statements made by Congressman Howard Coble regarding the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II (he said the internment was OK), to urge him to apologize, and to encourage him to resign from the chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security of the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives.



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**Status:** Approved by the Legislature and sent to Congress. Governor's signature not needed.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 17** (Martha Escutia, D-Norwalk)

**Purpose:** To amend the laws relating to property taxes on nonresidential commercial and industrial property to eliminate loopholes that have allowed such properties to evade reassessment upon sale of the property.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee for a hearing on June 30.

**LLP Position:** Support. This bill would increase tax revenues and reduce the need to cut spending on health and social services programs.

**SB 24** (Liz Figueroa, D-Fremont)

**Purpose:** To require the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program to confirm the eligibility of, and issue a Medi-Cal card to, any child under the age of one who appears to be eligible for Medi-Cal.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing on July 8.

**LLP Position:** Support. This bill would provide another door into Medi-Cal for poor children and eliminate the need for them to go to another office to apply for Medi-Cal.

**SB 36** (Wes Chesbro, D-Santa Rosa)

**Purpose:** To provide that federally qualified health center services and rural health clinic services, as defined, are covered benefits under the Medi-Cal program, to be reimbursed to providers on a per-visit basis. The bill would also provide for various requirements pertaining to the reimbursement of these services.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing on June 10. Hearing cancelled by author.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 43** (Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To provide an easy way for people to contribute to the Emergency Food Assistance Program Fund by submitting extra money with taxes owed to the each year. The bill would permit this until January 1, 2009.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Referred to the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee for a hearing on

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## Legislative Update

Continued from page 11

June 23.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 57 (John Burton, D–San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To adjust the hourly minimum wage on January 1, 2004, and annually thereafter, to maintain employee purchasing power.

**Status:** Still is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 101 (Wes Chesbro, D–Santa Rosa)

**Purpose:** To require most healthcare service plans and disability insurance policies to provide coverage for the treatment of medically necessary substance-related disorders, excluding caffeine-related disorders, on the same basis as they provide coverage for any other medical condition.

**Status:** Still is in the Senate Insurance Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 142 (Dierdre Alpert, D–San Diego)

**Purpose:** To require the state to establish a process for county Medi-Cal eligibility staff members to authorize eligibility for children in the Healthy Families Program if the child meets the program's eligibility requirements. Currently county Medi-Cal staff are not doing this.

**Status:** Still is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support. This bill would create an additional gate through which children could be enrolled in the Healthy Families Program.

### SB 146 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)

**Purpose:** To help non-English-speaking people understand business contracts they sign. Current law requires business people who negotiate certain contracts primarily in Spanish to deliver a Spanish translation of the contract to other parties prior to execution of the contract. This bill adds that the Spanish document must include a translation of every term and condition in that contract.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Referred to the Assembly Committee on Banking and Finance for a hearing on June 23.

**LLP Position:** Support, but we would like other

languages added to the bill.

### SB 853 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)

**Purpose:** To require that healthcare service plans in California offer access to language assistance and culturally competent health care services.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing on July 8.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 921 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To declare the intent of the Legislature to implement a single-payer, universal healthcare delivery system in California.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet. The language actually establishing a single-payer health insurance plan had to be stripped from the bill to get it approved by the Senate. The author hopes to restore the original language in the Assembly.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SBX1 1 (Charles Poochigian, R–Fresno)

**Purpose:** To suspend all bills relating to worker's compensation, labor standards, and agricultural labor relations that were approved last year, until the governor issues a proclamation declaring that the California economy has fully recovered from the recession that began in 2000.

**Status:** Still is in the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Watch with concern. This may invalidate bills of concern to people of color.

### SBX1 3 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)

**Purpose:** To amend the laws relating to property taxes on nonresidential commercial and industrial property to eliminate loopholes that have allowed such properties to evade reassessment upon sale of the property.

**Status:** Has not yet been assigned to a committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support. This bill would increase tax revenues and reduce the need to cut spending on health and social services programs.

## Women's Issues

### AB 23 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)

**Purpose:** To create the Mammography Patient Best Principles that include prescribed expectations and

rights of mammography patients.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 134** (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)

**Purpose:** In certain circumstances, to increase the penalty for domestic violence if the accused had been convicted previously of domestic violence.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 145** (Alan Lowenthal, D–Long Beach)

**Purpose:** To require probation officers to receive initial and refresher training in domestic violence.

**Status:** Still is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 183** (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)

**Purpose:** To include licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed clinical social workers services within the scope of Medi-Cal covered benefits, to the extent that federal matching funds are available for those services.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 184** (Alan Lowenthal, D–Long Beach)

**Purpose:** To allow the driver's registration public records of the victims of domestic violence and stalking to be kept confidential.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Public Safety Committee for a hearing June 24.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 367** (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)

**Purpose:** To establish a state program to inform pregnant women, new mothers, and healthcare professionals of certain postpartum mood and anxiety disorders.

**Status:** Still is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 383** (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)

**Purpose:** Existing law states that a person charged with domestic violence must be present for arraignment and sentencing. This bill states that such a person must be present at *any* time during a trial to be sure to hear the terms of any protective order issued by the court. This would prevent the defendant from later violating a protective order and claiming he or she didn't know the terms of the order.

**Status:** Passed by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 506** (Bill Maze, R–Visalia)

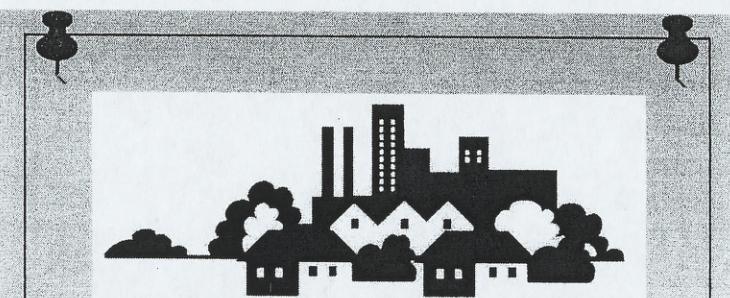
**Purpose:** To require the police in sexual assault cases to test the victim's urine to see if the victim had been drugged by the attacker, unless the victim objects to the test.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 898** (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)

*Continued on page 14*



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## Legislative Update

*Continued from page 13*

**Purpose:** To require a law enforcement agency investigating certain felony sex offenses, upon the request of the victim, to inform the victim whether or not a DNA profile was obtained from the testing of the rape kit evidence or other crime scene evidence from their case, whether that information had been entered into the Department of Justice Data Bank of case evidence, and whether or not there is a match between the DNA profile developed from the rape kit evidence or other crime scene evidence and a DNA profile contained in the Department of Justice Convicted Offender DNA Database.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet..

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AB 1488 (Patricia Bates, R-Laguna Niguel)

**Purpose:** To declare that a hearing for a request for release on bail must be held before a defendant charged with certain crimes is to be released. The charges include that the defendant made threats to kill or harm the victim, engaged in violence against, or visited the residence or workplace of a person protected from the defendant by a restraining order.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Referred to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house. If approved by the Senate, will have to return to the Assembly for concurrence with the changes made to the bill in the Senate.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### AJR 2 (Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara)

**Purpose:** To tell Congress and the president of the United States to stand firm in their resolve to uphold the intent and substance of the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* relating to reproductive rights, and to encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration, "Celebrating 30 Years of *Roe v. Wade*," in recognition of that decision's historic importance in promoting women's rights.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly and the Senate. Sent to Congress. The governor's signature was not needed.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 490 (Deirdre Alpert, D-San Diego)

**Purpose:** To simplify and reduce the paperwork that pharmacists must now go through before selling an emergency contraception drug, such as RU 486, to a customer.

**Status:** Passed the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Not referred to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 545 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)

**Purpose:** To simplify and reduce the paperwork that pharmacists must now go through before selling an emergency contraception drug, such as RU 486, to a customer. Also to reduce the training needed for a pharmacist to dispense the drug.

**Status:** Passed the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Not referred to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 664 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To require the State Department of Social Services to allocate an unspecified percentage of the marriage promotion moneys in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Fund to county welfare agencies for domestic violence services for CalWORKS recipients, as specified. Also to require the department to allocate to the Office of Women's Health in the State Department of Health Services an unspecified percentage of the marriage promotion moneys in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Fund to develop and implement a public education campaign that raises awareness about the health consequences of domestic violence.

**Status:** Still is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### SB 689 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

**Purpose:** To establish a program for testing breast milk in at least three racially, economically, and geographically diverse communities to assess community health in those areas.

**Status:** Still is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

**LLP Position:** Support.

###

## Bill Endorsement Letters Needed

*Continued from page 1*

- **AB 458:** Would ban discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) children, or against LGBTI foster parents and caregivers. Author: The Hon. Judy Chu

What is the danger posed by the possible recall election? It is quite possible that the election—if it occurs at all—will happen this fall. That means Governor Davis would be running for reelection at the same time he would be deciding whether to sign or veto these bills. I am not aware of any evidence the governor will veto our bills, and he seems to have good intentions regarding them. However, if he is up for reelection this fall the possibility of him vetoing them needs to be considered. He may feel that signing the bills would anger too many centrist Democratic voters.

What can we do about it? We need to demonstrate that there is widespread support for the bills from outside our community. In particular, we must get support letters for the bills from businesses, labor unions, and religious institutions. Enough of these letters might persuade the governor that he would not offend centrist Democrats by signing these bills.

Do you own a business? You could write letters on your business stationery endorsing each of the bills. Do you work for a business where your employer might be willing to write letters of support? If so, ask your boss to do so. Do you belong to a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque that is liberal enough to support the bills? Ask your clergy person to write letters of support. Perhaps a “Social Action Committee” or some such committee of your place of worship would be willing to write letters supporting the bills. Do you work for a union? Would your local union chapter write letters of support. If you think they would, ask them to do so.

You might think it unlikely that any of the above would write letters of support. The fact is that representatives of business, religion, and labor unions have all supported these bills. But we don't yet have enough letters from these groups to really make a strong difference. Your efforts could make the difference between these bills becoming law or dying. Please help us get these bills passed and signed by the governor.

Letters really only need one or two sentences. They should identify the business, religious affiliation, or union of the person writing the letter. Then they could say something like “I, [or I on behalf of my house of

## Friends of Lambda Letters

*Continued from page 1*

into our bank accounts. Instead, those contributions are sent to SPC and are deposited in their bank account.

Both Lambda Letters and SPC keep records of the contributions made to the Friends of Lambda Letters. When we have educational expenses, as opposed to lobbying expenses, we send receipts to SPC and they reimburse us for those expenses.

If you would like to make a tax-advantaged contribution to our work, make it out to “The Friends of Lambda Letters.” You can send it to us with your signed letters and we will forward your check to SPC.

Most of the work we do is lobbying, however, and we do very much need contributions to pay for that important work. Please, if you can, send us a check made out to Lambda Letters, even though you will not be able to claim a tax exemption for that contribution. We will use it to pay our lobbying expenses.

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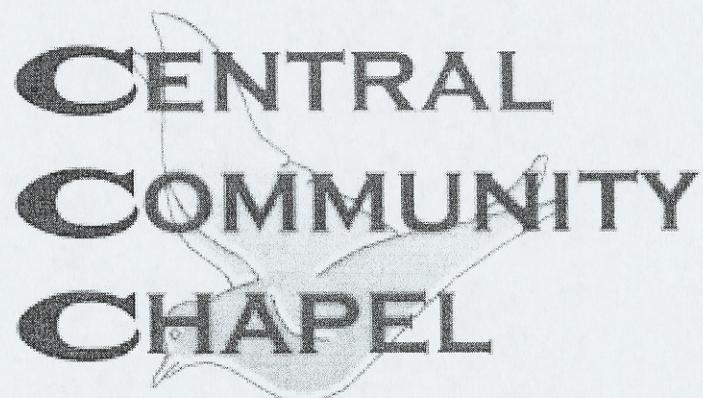
worship, or business, or union] wish to express my support of AB 17 [or AB 196, or AB 205, or AB 458].” The letters should then be signed and sent to the authors of the bills as shown above. The address for each of the authors is the same. It is:

The Hon. [author's first and last name]  
California State Legislature  
Sacramento, CA 95814

To be effective we need separate letters on each bill to the author of the bill covered by the letter. Remember, your effort could make the difference between these bills passing and failing. Please do all you can to get the necessary endorsement letters written and sent.

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